RAPE CULTURE
5 UNDERLYING COMPONENTS

SEXISM
Hostile sexism: overtly sexist beliefs endorsing men’s superiority to women and men’s right to control women and their sexuality
Benevolent sexism: heteronormative beliefs of men and women as distinct and complementary, where men must protect and provide for women

TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES
Roles and stereotypes a society or culture deems as appropriate and traditional for men and for women
For example:
Men are dominant; women are submissive.
Men are sexual; women are pure

ADVERSARIAL SEXUAL BELIEFS
Beliefs that heterosexual interactions revolve around power struggles where both men and women are trying to gain something from each other
For example:
Men only want sex; Women only want power

HOSTILITY TOWARD WOMEN
Beliefs and expressions that women are at the root of most ills of the world
For example:
Some interpretations of the Biblical story of Adam and Eve place Eve as the root cause of evil

ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE
The idea that violence is excusable (e.g., corporal punishment, war) and, in some circumstances, desired (e.g., sex).

How do these components play out based on a person’s social identities?